

WHEREAS, The National Weather Service for the past summer and this fall season has routinely issued "Red Flag Warnings" and Grassland Fire Index Ratings in the Very High to Extreme Category for Fall River County; and,

WHEREAS, The current U.S. Drought Monitor indicates all of Fall River County is in D03 status as "Extreme Drought" Category; and,

WHEREAS, Fire Departments in Fall River County have been very busy in supporting state and federal agencies to suppress forest fires while at the same time, suppressing fires in their own jurisdictional areas this fire season; and,

WHEREAS, Both Fall River County and its fire departments have had to spend significant amounts of money beyond normal budget expenditures to suppress large wildfires not on federal or state jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, The Fall River County Board of Commissioners has enacted county-wide burn bans and launched a fire prevention education effort to reduce the incidence of human-caused fires in Fall River County; and,

WHEREAS, The Fall River County Board of Commissioners, through its Emergency Management Office, provided documentation of local county efforts to abate the wildfire emergency to the State Drought Task Force; and,

WHEREAS, Upon review of the local county efforts, the Drought Task Force has recommended Fall River County be declared a "Red Zone" county for the purposes of state wildfire assistance; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, under provisions of SDCL 33-15, otherwise known as the Emergency Management law, do declare a state of wildfire emergency to exist in Fall River County in the state of South Dakota since August 1, 2012, for the purposes of the "Red Zone" declaration.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED, that under the coordination of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Wildland Fire Suppression, per authority of SDCL 41-20-5, that assistance be granted to Fall River County, and its fire departments under existing state agency policy and guidelines for support of wildfire suppression activities within the county.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this First day of October, 2012.

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

ATTEST:

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State